



# HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

## OFFICE OF PURCHASING

### EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY (EBO) PROGRAM

The participation of Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), Women Business Enterprises (WBEs) and Disabled Business Enterprises (DBEs) is essential to the realization of Howard County's social and economic development goals.

The County promotes an active program of research and technical assistance in order to foster participation by minority firms in its procurement process.

The Office of Purchasing's commitment and policy is to assure all persons an equal opportunity to participate in the procurement of all commodities and services. The Equal Business Opportunity effort is an extension of current Purchasing procedures and is practiced on an ongoing basis.

### GET HOWARD COUNTY EBO CERTIFIED!

The County recognizes businesses certified by the following:

- Howard County Equal Business Opportunity Commission (EBOC)
- State of Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- City of Baltimore
- Federal agencies when that agency is the grantor for a County project
- Other states and municipalities or certifying entity when it would be impractical or unreasonable not to use a certified minority

### EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM GOALS

The County's intent is to award 20% of the total amount of all contracts directly to minority firms every fiscal year. This includes construction, architectural and engineering services, and other procurements for goods and services.

When the contract value is \$50,000 or more, prime contractors should subcontract 15% of each contract to minority firms. The percentage may vary if the contract is funded by a federal or state agency. Certified EBO prime contractors can count 100% of the work they self-perform on contracts with EBO subcontracting goals.

Howard County encourages minority participation primarily through two mechanisms:

- By encouraging minority firms to respond directly to County solicitations for goods and services.
- By encouraging prime contractors to include minority firms as sub-contractors and/or suppliers.



ENCOURAGES  
PARTICIPATION  
IN THE EQUAL  
BUSINESS  
OPPORTUNITY  
PROGRAM